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College is one of Canada's top diversity and family-friendly employers

George Brown has been recognized as one of the nation's best diversity and family-friendly employers. It was selected from among thousands of private and public sector organizations to be recognized as one of Canada's top 45 diversity employers as well as top 25 family-friendly employers. It is the only college on either list. George Brown has also been recognized as one of Canada's top 100 employers and one of Toronto's top 75 employers.

For the diversity award, announced in March, the college was selected from among 2,600 public and private sector applicants by editors at contest organizer Toronto-based publishing firm Mediapro Canada Inc. They cited college initiatives such as sign language interpreting services for employees, the collection of employment equity data, and the installation of telephone/computer communication devices among the reasons for George Brown's inclusion on the list. "The finalists chosen represent the most progressive and forward-thinking employers in their field," says Mediapro managing editor Richard Yerema.

Now entering its third year, the Canada's Best Diversity Employers competition examines a range of diversity initiatives covering women, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal peoples; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender/transsexual (LGBT) people.

George Brown was chosen to be included in the list of Canada's 25 most family-friendly employers by Mediapro editors after examining how the college's practices and policies affected family life – particularly for families with young children. Editors were impressed by the array of benefits available to employees including maternity and parental leave top-ups, flexible work options, and the extension of tuition subsidies to the children of employees.

This is the second year in a row that employment experts took a look at college organizational practices and policies and ranked it among the best places in the nation to work. Canada's Top 100 Employers and subsidiary contests for Toronto, diversity and family-friendly employers are organized sponsored by Eluta.ca – a job search website.

More information on the contests and reasons for George Brown's selection go to <http://www.eluta.ca/top-employer-george-brown-college-of-applied-arts-and-technology>.



FESTIVAL OF... LEAPING: Student dancers perform for employees at the Festival of Learning in early March in the St. James Campus gym. Dancers pictured, who are part of the George Brown Dance Student Performance Ensemble, are (from left) Caitlin Thrasher (left) and Jamee Valin (right), both students in the Dance Performance Preparation program. The Festival of Learning transformed the St. James gym into day-long carnival with games and educational booths by college departments, as well as offering professional development sessions for about 450 employees over two days.

\$1 million donation to Yes Chef! Campaign permits training expansion

Current and future George Brown hospitality students have one thing to say to Compass Group Canada: Thanks a million!

A recent \$1 million donation from the food services company has enabled the college to upgrade its facilities and train more people to meet the demand for employees in Canada's growing hospitality industry.

The donation is the largest to date in the George Brown's Yes Chef! fundraising campaign and one of the largest private sector monetary donations in the

college's history. The Compass donation brings the campaign close to reaching its goal of \$5 million.

Compass Group Canada is a leading national food-service and support services company. It operates contract food and facilities management services in business, healthcare, transportation and education, including Chartwells College and University Dining Services.

Chartwells President Ross Munro presented a huge \$1 million cheque to the campaign.

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\$1 million donation to Yes Chef! Campaign

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"It is our distinct pleasure to participate with George Brown College in the YES CHEF! Campaign. As president of Chartwells, I am particularly focused on the emerging needs of students across our country. As an organization, we are keenly aware of the importance of supporting our up and coming culinarians. As a preferred employer, Compass Group Canada is impressed with the high caliber of George Brown graduates and delighted to be part of their future success," said Ross Munro, President, Chartwells.

In recognition of the donation George Brown will name its new, state-of-the-art culinary lab the "Compass Group Canada Culinary Lab" and its student café at 300 Adelaide St. East in Toronto, the "City Café."

"On behalf of George Brown College, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for Compass Group Canada's enthusiasm and generous support for our campaign," said Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts Dean John Walker. "The integrated learning partnership we have created with Compass will significantly impact our Chef School's ability to continually improve. Most importantly, it will help us prepare more high-quality, work-ready graduates in our expanded facilities."

The Yes Chef! campaign, which is helping to fund the expansion and revitalization, was developed to help the college meet the expected shortage of approximately 300,000 hospitality sector workers across Canada by 2015. With its new facilities and expanded programming, the college will be able to supply industry with additional hospitality and culinary graduates to meet labour market needs.

"As one of Canada's Top 100 Employers, we are constantly on the lookout for the brightest and most talented culinary professionals in the industry," says Brenda Brown, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Compass Group Canada and ESS North America. "It is our privilege and pleasure to work together with George Brown graduates, whom we consider to be among the best trained, most creative, and definitely service oriented culinarians that Canada has to offer," Brown said.

The Centre for Hospitality & Culinary Arts recently expanded its facilities at 300 Adelaide St. East in Toronto. It also restored a turn-of-the-century factory and warehouse building at 215 King St. East into what is now The Chefs' House, the college's signature street-front, student-run restaurant.

Students win inter-college iron chef competition

George Brown can now boast it has an Iron Chef School. A team of George Brown Chef School students recently emerged victorious in an iron chef-style open kitchen competition with competitors from Ontario colleges. Led by student Brian Cheng, the team earned his victory by wowing diners – who served as judges – with their entrée of Steamed Sea Bream with Smoked Scallop and Savoy Cabbage, Seared Evrangi Mushroom, Pickled Kombu and a Miso Dashi Broth.

The intense competition between George Brown, Humber and Niagara colleges was the main event at a dinner for 100 people sponsored by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment and held on March 22 at the swish Platinum Club in the Air Canada Centre.

Cheng, assisted by culinary students Jex Paisley, Rene Tungul and Michael Arokium, prepared the fish dish – including a secret, surprise ingredient – and then plated it under the watchful eyes of diners, who followed the kitchen action on huge closed-circuit screens – mimicking the TV cameras of the famous cooking show. Each college team prepared one course of the dinner – which was then judged on its flavour, creativity, and presentation as well as the diner's response to the question: "Would you order this dish in a restaurant?"

Cheng was mentored for this competition by Chef Charlton Alvares, he will receive a \$3,500 prize and will also be honoured at centre court during a Toronto Raptors game in front of 20,000 people.



Student Care Experts on campus: Four employees recently were given certificates for successfully completing a six-course Student Care program offered by the Staff Development Department. From left are Tamara Obouhov, Kristina Arany, program co-ordinator Danny Stone, Rachele Maciel, and Dawn Chandelier.



A NEW LOOK FOR LUNDSTROM: Famed Canadian fashion designer Linda Lundstrom interacts with Fashion Management students as she shows off her new look – as a part-time George Brown teacher. The fashion entrepreneur says she loves passing along her expertise in fashion manufacturing developed in more than three decades in the industry to students. Lundstrom is an advocate of for keeping clothing manufacturing in Canada, where she says advantages offset off-shore production.

Team to Team Awards



The Special Projects and Community Partnership team show off the Team to Team Award they were given at the Festival of Learning in Early March. The awards were given to teams, nominated by other college teams. From left are: Kizzy Bedeau, Shelagh Walsh, Lawrence Alvarez, Deliah Jackson, Elizabeth Dantas, Joelido Tillo, Rosa Duran, Sandy Luo, and Natalia Savone. Not all team members were able to attend the awards ceremony. There were no representatives from the Information Technology Department, who were given an award.



The Social Services Worker Faculty team with their award (from left) Ron Sluser, Bill Gaper, Diane Moore, and Keith Nickson.



St. James Faculty Facilitators Susan Heximer (left) and Rosalind Gilbert were on hand to receive a Team to Team Award.



Implex staffers Cordi Villa (left) and Jennel Babol accepted a Team to Team award.



The Scheduling team in the Registrar's Office were given a Team to Team Award. From left are Trevor Coe, Amy Halliday, and Registrar Dianne Tessier.



Student Counsellor Zeba Luxmore (left) and Student Support Services Director Kim Vance accepted a Team to Team Award for the Student Counsellors team.



Bill Kollias single-handedly accepted Team to Team Award for the Denturism program team.

President Anne Sado



In its recent speech from the throne, the provincial government outlined a broad plan for expanding Ontario's economic strength by focusing on sectors deemed key to the future. In particular, postsecondary education ranked high on the list of priorities as our government clearly recognizes the importance of a trained and educated workforce now and in the coming years.

The Province's five year plan, called Open Ontario, sets a goal of raising Ontario's postsecondary education attainment rates from the current 62 per cent to 70 per cent, increasing international enrolment by 50 per cent over five years, and sets an ambitious target of 20,000 additional spaces in colleges and universities for students this year.

Beyond creating the capacity to accommodate greater numbers of qualified students, however, is also a specific objective to evolve postsecondary education in Ontario with a much more international outlook in line with current globalization trends. By promoting our postsecondary institutions abroad, the Province aims to increase inter-

national enrolment while maintaining spaces for Ontario students. The benefits of international enrolment are multifaceted – international students enrich the educational experience at host institutions, while providing potentially long-term economic gain for the province, when graduates become future employers with ties to Ontario or as skilled immigrants.

At George Brown, we are fortunate to have anticipated the significance of international education, which is closely tied to the same trend in industry and the workplace, and to have implemented an ongoing internationalization strategy.

Over the past five years, international students at George Brown have consistently represented approximately 10 per cent of the college's total enrolment. Currently, more than 1,800 international students are studying on our campuses. Ever since this beginning of this growth, the 'internationalization' of George Brown has brought many benefits for our students, faculty and staff.

First and foremost, as economic globalization continues to grow and labour markets become more mobile, employers will increasingly require skilled workers who are able to speak multiple languages, work in foreign countries, and bridge cultural differences in the workplace. The presence of international students, along with returning study work abroad students, in the classroom enriches the educational experience for all students by infusing an international dimension into group work, classroom discussion and projects.

Our internationalization strategy has also incorporated numerous opportunities for faculty development. By enriching our faculty with international experience, students can gain an international perspective that will be of value in their future careers.

If we go one step further, however, the internationalization strategy is really an extension of George Brown's overall strategy of developing partnerships to expand our ability to deliver on our promise to students. In this sense, we are pursuing an existing strategy on the world stage rather than staying within our traditional borders.

Already, the relationships we have forged with international partners have resulted in programs that offer a more streamlined path for international students to study and gain work experience in Canada.

Ultimately, internationalization extends far beyond education and Ontario. In my recent official trips to China and India, I saw firsthand how committed our partner institutions are to internationalization, and how many of our goals are tied together. As the Province positions itself for a greater presence on the world stage, George Brown is already well on its way to towards establishing its own presence among its global peers.

GREEN SPOT

An electronic equipment amnesty is coming in April.

Look around your workspace – do you see unused and outdated electronic equipment, such as computers, that is just taking up space and catching dust? Would you like to dispose of these things properly – so as much as possible is recycled, usable equipment donated, and the rest disposed of properly?

Now's your chance!

The college is holding an electronic amnesty in April – collecting old equipment and managing proper disposal for you.

All you need to do is make a call –
to Luba Pazyuk at ext. 4424 or
by e-mail to lpazyuk@georgebrown.ca



Make it happen.

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